

At about 18.00 hrs a species of microchiropteran bat started coming out of the hole and approximately 50 were seen. They moved in and out frequently up to 3.00 hrs. These were later identified at the Society as *Hipposideros fulvus*.

At 18.20 hrs. a porcupine came out of the hole and went inside again. Again at about 21.00 hrs. two porcupines were seen going out for foraging.

At 22.30 hrs. a python crawled to the mouth of the same hole and remained there up to 7.15 hrs. In between this the porcupines were

observed entering the hole at 3.30 hrs, presumably after feeding. Neither the python nor the porcupines showed any aggression or interest in each other.

The python and bat appear to use the same day roost or rest area as the porcupine. This is noteworthy as the porcupine has been recorded as a prey of the python from stomach content analysis (Daniel 1983).

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#### REFERENCE

DANIEL, J. C. (1983): The book of Indian Reptiles. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.

#### 21.. THE GOLDEN TREE SNAKE AT PERIYAR

Whilst on a trip to Periyar Wildlife Reserve at Thekkady, Kerala we went out onto the lake on several occasions. We were traversing in a launch one afternoon, at a particularly wide portion of the lake at about 1.30 p.m. and I was amazed to see a fairly large specimen of the Golden Tree flying snake (*Chrysopelea ornata*) moving vigorously up the wide trunk of a dead tree in the lake. We stopped the launch to watch and make certain of the identification. It was a particularly fine specimen, roughly 2½ ft long, with very beautiful markings. Its presence in the middle of the lake was of interest for on either side of us there was at

least 100 yards of water to the nearest land. One wonders if the snake had swum to the dead tree or glided from the evergreen canopy on one side of the lake. Since it glides using its concave and flattened belly as a parachute I would have thought 100-180 yards would have been quite beyond its capacity. However would it then be possible, if it alighted on water or on another petrified tree for it to swim to the remaining distance? Since this snake is rarely seen in the Indian subcontinent I was delighted to have an opportunity to watch it for some time in its natural habitat and at such close quarters.

